

CONCERN UNIVERSAL AND BALAKA DISTRICT COUNCIL, Malawi
Universal LLIN distribution report for week 26th September to 5th October

Concern Universal Malawi in conjunction with Balaka District councils are conducting a Universal Long Lasting Insecticide Treated Net (LLIN) distribution program in the district as part of the National Malaria Control Programs' universal net distribution supplementary effort. Currently CU has received 149,500 LLINs to cover Balaka District. Against Malaria Foundation has provided the nets to be distributed. The programme commenced in January 2013.

Currently, CU and Balaka District Council are carrying out LLIN Net distributions which commenced on 26th September 2013 with an initial pilot distribution that was carried out in the five villages under Kalembo Health facility with the aim to learn logistical lessons surrounding distribution methodologies attest the logistical resource allocations and equip the distribution staff with distribution knowledge. Then from 30th September we carried out the mass distribution exercise having learnt logistical challenges encountered.

Below is the table of distribution by health centre covered during the reporting period.

Health Centre	Total Number of Villages	Villages distributed	Number of households	Population	Number of sleeping spaces	Usable LLIN in place	Nets required	Nets distributed	Gap
Kalembo	40	24	5118	20400	12715	2997	9630	9278	352
Ulongwe	26	26	3575	15492	8965	3816	5150	5115	35
Nandumbo	28	28	4277	18348	11182	3334	7947	7510	437
Mwima	58	47	4913	18162	11892	3226	8672	8288	384
Total	152	136	17883	72402	44754	13373	31399	30191	1208

During the week's distributions, complete coverage was made to all villages under Ulongwe and Nandumbo, however there were a large number of non recipients from some villages under Nandumbo health facility due to non turn up of the beneficiaries whom we will address during the mop up exercise. 24 of the 40 villages under Kalembo and 47 of 58 villages under Mwima were also under distribution during the week. The remaining 11 villages under Mwima health facility will be covered in next week's distributions where as the remaining 16 villages under Kalembo will be covered in the near future when we will be covering Mbera health facility due to geographical proximity.

The exercise despite the verification process and data cleaning faced some duplicates that were discovered during the distributions. The duplicate situation had not been dealt with during data cleaning as it was deemed only when both villages were asked to collect nets from the same distribution point that it became clear that there had been duplicate entries. However, different distribution points at the same time though at the same cluster makes it practically impossible for villagers to collect two nets from different sites by double registering.

Next week we will be distributing the remaining villages of Mwima health facility, Namanolo and Mbera health facilities.

Challenges and lessons learnt

The initiative faced great success during the period since the teams were leaving earlier for the distributions and the distribution vans were transporting the nets to the health centres a day before the distributions.

Lapse in the time between registration and distribution contributed for the data to be out-dated mainly due to the fact that some beneficiaries are deceased but due to proper sensitisations the communities volunteered to inform the distributing team members of the situation and the nets allocated to the deceased beneficiary were either reallocated to new unregistered members or returned to the office for mop-up distribution.

Clustering of the villages to one distribution point has prevented beneficiaries from receiving the nets twice especially those who registered in two villages. This was evident in Kamvunguti cluster under Nandumbo health facility where teachers were registered in two villages of Bimbi and Maela. There is great need to send the exact number of nets required at each distribution point, as the extra nets sent can spark controversy in the villagers whose names were missing, leading them to think that the extra nets were meant for them.

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08 October 2013